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Edited by EDWARD JACKSON Assisted by WILLIAM H. CRISP
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THE PROBLEM OF CLASSIFICATION.

The accumulation of ideas is accompanied by some arrangement and co-ordination of them. To some extent this may be a matter of individual experience and education. But when it comes to dealing with a literature some uniformity of arrangement and classification becomes of paramount importance. The number of ideas that can be grasped and held available for use in the individual mind is limited, the number that can be rendered available in a well-arranged and classified literature is enormously greater. The number now extant in the literature of ophthalmology is greater than any one person can hope to memorize. It is more important to know where and how to find the facts that may be needed, than it is to have committed a large number of facts to memory. More effective arrangement and classification is a real and important need of our literature. It must be worked out by those interested in ophthalmic science whose needs are to be met, not independently by any one student.

The important aims of classification, its difficulties and limitations, the risks of over-refinement, the questions of detail that arise with regard to each branch of ophthalmic literature, are subjects worthy of thought on the part of all readers of ophthalmic books and journals. With the literature indexed, as it is in this publication, defects and difficulties of classification become evident, and invite suggestions for improvement.

BOOK NOTICES.

Casey A. Wood, Chicago. A System of Ophthalmic Operations. Octavo. Two volumes, 1,824 pages, 18 colored plates, 968 illustrations. Cloth, $15.00. Cleveland Press, Chicago.

This work has been written by Dr. Wood and twenty-nine collaborators. Comparing it with the most extended treatise

on the subject previously published, "Die Augenärztlichen Operationen" of Czermak, this work contains almost fifty per cent. more text, and more than four times as many illustrations.

It is somewhat broader in scope than other works upon the subject. It contains a biographic chapter (25 pages) outlining the work of certain representative ophthalmic surgeons of the past, a chapter on the forensic relations of ophthalmic surgery (135 pages), and chapters on operations on the nose and its accessory sinuses (72 pages), and on operations on distant organs for the relief of eye diseases (91 pages). There are also special chapters on the development of operative skill on the part of the surgeon (25 pages), pre-operative technique (30 pages), after-treatment of ophthalmic operations and of their complications (48 pages), electric appliances and their use in ophthalmic surgery (93 pages), and anesthesia local and general (32 pages); besides chapters on minor ophthalmic surgery (61 pages), the instruments used in ophthalmic surgery (44 pages), and ophthalmic hospitals and furnishings (26 pages). The remaining chapters deal with particular groups of operations. Most of them open with an account of the surgical anatomy, followed by an historical review of the class of operations, before proceeding to special preparation or after-treatment, and the details of particular operations. Most of the illustrations are more or less diagrammatic, a class that best assists the text in conveying the particular thought of the writer. Adequate description of the merits of the different chapters in this book is manisfestly impossible within the limits of this notice. As with all such works of multiple authorship, differences of style and thoroughness are noticeable. We cannot refrain, however, from the remark that every ophthalmic surgeon would profit by a careful perusal of the chapter on The Forensic Relations of Ophthalmic Surgery. He would rise from such a perusal with a better appreciation of his responsibilities towards his patients and his professional colleagues, and a fuller understanding of the pitfalls which beset the path of the operator.

F. Lagrange and **E. Valude,** Paris. Encyclopédie Française D'Ophthalmologie. In 9 volumes, octavo, about 1,000 pages each. O. Doin et Fils, Paris.

The ninth and last volume of this colossal work has now appeared. It contains the chapters on surgical technique, ophthalmic geography, comparative and veterinary ophthalmology, ocular hygiene, simulation, medico-legal aspects, deontology (ethics) and examination of vision for military service.

Paul Roemer, Greifswald. Lehrbuch der Augenheilkunde. 13 colored plates, 186 illustrations. Urban and Schwarzenberg, Berlin.

This book is arranged in the form of thirteen clinical conferences, which deal with the more striking and generally important phases of ocular disease.

IMPORTANT PAPERS.

Extended statistics bearing on the value of blood examination in ocular infections are included in the paper of Rasquin. Rönne seeks to establish some significant relation between peripheral vision and the color sense in optic atrophy. Valuable papers on miners' nystagmus are published by Benoit, Dransart and Rutten. Jessop discusses the ophthalmoscopic appearances of chronic choroidal tuberculosis. Guillery has studied the actions of ferments on the eyes and their relation to sympathetic ophthalmia. Axenfeld offers interesting observations on the role of tuberculosis in causing intraocular hemorrhage, vascular lesions and proliferating retinitis. Under general diseases are noticed several contributions to the literature of the treatment of syphilis by salvarsan. The paper of Henschen on Circumscribed Nutritional Areas in the Occipital Lobe, and their Relation to Theories of the Visual Centers, is of importance to internists and neurologists as well as to ophthalmologists.

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ANNOUNCEMENT.

In the February number of **The Index of Ophthalmology,** Dr. Joseph C. Beck announces that its publication is discontinued. He will concentrate his attention upon the **Index of Oto-Laryngology,** a publication which will be of interest to many ophthalmologists as well as to those who confine their work strictly to diseases of the nose and throat.